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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,092	01/02/2004	William R. Dodds	3158.01US02	1330
24113	7590	02/24/2005	EXAMINER	
PATTERSON, THUENTE, SKAAR & CHRISTENSEN, P.A. 4800 IDS CENTER 80 SOUTH 8TH STREET MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-2100			NGUYEN, TRINH T	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3644		

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

 Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/751,092	DODDS, WILLIAM R.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Trinh T Nguyen	3644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2004.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6,8-19,23,24 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6,8-19,23,24,26 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 7-12, 18, and 19 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Struckhoff (US 3,004,518), Moore (US 3,205,860), Meyer (US 5,092,273), Fort, II (US D495,099), and Jones (US 2,715,386). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-6, 8-12, 15-17, 23, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore (US 3,205,860) in view of Struckhoff (US 3,004,518) (please see a more detail Figure 13 of Moore attached with the Office Action for further explanation for the rejections of claims 1-6, 8-12, 15-17, 23, and 26).

Moore discloses a feeding apparatus comprising a container (11, 12, 13) having a plurality of side walls; and an undulating extension surrounding the container having regions of increased extension and regions of decreased extension, wherein the undulating extension defines a plurality of separate eating stations, wherein the regions of increased extension comprise an outboard end and an inboard end, and wherein the inboard end is adjacent the container (see attached Figure 13 of Moore at the end of this Office Action for further explanation).

Moore lacks each side wall having structure that defines at least one opening which permits access to the interior of the container.

Struckhoff teaches a similar feeding apparatus as that of Moore in which Struckhoff's feeding apparatus having each side wall having structure that defines at least one opening which permits access to the interior of the container. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the feeding apparatus of Moore so as to include openings in the side walls in a similar manner as taught in Struckhoff, since to do so would allow the animal to eat feed through the openings.

For claim 2, Moore as modified by Struckhoff (emphasis on Moore) further discloses the container further comprises a first section (11) connected to a second section (12).

For claims 3 and 4, Moore as modified by Struckhoff lacks the first section has a rectangular cross section and the second section has a trapezoidal shape. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the feeding apparatus of Moore as modified by Struckhoff in whatever form or shape was desired or expedient, wherein no stated problem is solved by having the specific shape as claimed versus the shape taught by the prior art. Furthermore, a change in form or shape is generally recognized as being well known within the level to one of ordinary skill in the art depending on one's intended use.

For claim 6, Moore as modified by Struckhoff (emphasis on Moore) further discloses a feed divider member (20) located within the container.

For claim 8, Moore as modified by Struckhoff (emphasis on Moore) further discloses the outboard end is positioned higher than the inboard end.

For claim 9, Moore as modified by Struckhoff lacks the outboard end is from about 0.5 feet to about 4 feet higher than the inboard end. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Moore as modified by Struckhoff's feeding apparatus so as to include the outboard end is from about 0.5 feet to about 4 feet higher than the inboard end, since it has been held that where routine testing and general experimental conditions are present, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

For claim 10, Moore as modified by Struckhoff (emphasis on Moore) further discloses the regions of increased extension further comprise an indentation located near the outboard end.

For claim 11, Moore as modified by Struckhoff (emphasis on Moore) further discloses regions of increased extension can further comprise a central section that runs parallel to the ground.

For claim 12, Moore as modified by Struckhoff (emphasis on Moore) further discloses the central section has a pair of side members that slope to form a trough-like shape.

For claim 15, Moore as modified by Struckhoff (emphasis on Moore) further discloses the feeding device is supported by a truss system (69).

For claim 16, Moore as modified by Struckhoff (emphasis on Moore) further discloses a plurality of support legs (67) are attached to the truss system to support the feeding apparatus.

For claim 17, Moore as modified by Struckhoff (emphasis on Moore) further discloses each of the plurality of support legs are connected to a base portion (66).

4. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore (US 3,205,860) in view of Struckhoff (US 3,004,518), and further in view of Meyer (US 5,092,273).

As described above, Moore as modified by Struckhoff lacks the regions of increased extension comprise one or more drains.

Meyer teaches a similar feeding apparatus as that of Moore as modified by Struckhoff in which Meyer's feeding apparatus having a plurality of drainage holes (40) therein. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Moore as modified by Struckhoff's feeding apparatus so as to include a plurality drainage holes on the regions of increased extension, in a similar manner as taught in Meyer, in order to provide proper drainage for water collected therein and thus prevent the feed from rotten.

For claim 14, Moore as modified by Struckhoff lacks a keyhole shape having larger upper opening and a slot extending from the upper opening. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the drainage hole of Moore as modified by Struckhoff and further modified by Meyer in whatever form or shape was desired or expedient, wherein a change in form or

shape is generally recognized as being well known within the level to one of ordinary skill in the art depending on one's intended use. Furthermore, it appears that the invention would perform equally well with drainage hole as disclosed in Meyer.

5. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore (US 3,205,860) in view of Struckhoff (US 3,004,518), and further in view of Jones (US 2,715,386).

As described above, Moore as modified by Struckhoff lacks the base portion comprises a mushroom shape.

Jones teaches a similar feeding apparatus as that of Moore as modified by Struckhoff in which Jones's feeding apparatus having a base portion (50) comprises a mushroom shape. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the base portion of Moore as modified by Struckhoff so as to include the base portion of a mushroom shape, in a similar manner as taught in Jones, since to do so would provide a more steady support for the overall structure.

6. Claims 19 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore (US 3,205,860) in view of Struckhoff (US 3,004,518), and further in view of Fort, II (US D495,099).

As described above, Moore as modified by Struckhoff lacks the undulating extension is formed by connecting a plurality of U shaped petals.

Fort, II teaches a similar feeding apparatus as that of Moore as modified by Struckhoff in which Fort, II's feeding apparatus having an undulating extension is

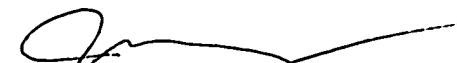
formed by connecting a plurality of U shaped petals. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the undulating extension of Moore as modified by Struckhoff so as to include a plurality of U shaped petals, in a similar manner as taught in Fort, II, since to do so would provide a plurality of separate feeding stations and thus prevent competition among the animal.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trinh T Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-9082. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M).

The examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on (703) 305-7421. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Trinh T Nguyen
Patent Ex.
Art Unit 3644
2/18/05

Sept. 14, 1965

R. D. MOORE

3,205,860

Filed Sept. 9, 1964

STOCK FEEDER
inboard end outboard end

5 Sheets-Sheet 5

